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THE MEANING OF
FRIENDSHIP

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON


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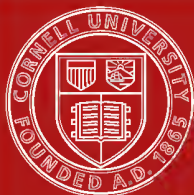


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The Meaning of Friendship



Robert Louis Stevenson

T H E
M E A N I N G
O F
F R I E N D S H I P

By ROBERT LOUIS
S T E V E N S O N

With an *Introductory Note* by
Edwin Osgood Grover

¶ Lettered by W. A. DWIGGINS

Amicum, amico



CHICAGO 1909
The Canterbury Company

JN this world *of* imperfections we gladly welcome even partial intimacies. And if we find but one to whom we can speak out our heart freely, with whom we can walk in love and simplicity without dissimulation, we have no ground *of* quarrel with the world or God. R. L. S.

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Introductory Note

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON must have known the meaning of friendship, for he taught others its meaning. Few men of his time won the love and loyalty of so many hearts or held them in so firm a bond, and now that he lies alone on the hill-top that he loved, under the starry Southern sky, the friends he loved and who loved him, have not forgotten,—for he taught them the wonder and the immortality of friendship.

Through almost everything that Robert Louis Stevenson wrote there runs the winning note, the human touch, that grips us all by its unconscious spell, so powerful is the friendly spirit. The essence of Stevenson's teaching seems to be that the way to make true friends is to be a true friend to others,—a simple recipe, yet a hard one to live up to in this our world.

This little book of "catchwords" taken from Stevenson's writings is typical of the spirit of the man, and may hearten and teach us all in our quest for the meaning of friendship. Only let us go about it humbly and with gratitude for a single friend if we are so fortunate as to find one. For, as Robert Louis says, "they are the end and reward of life."

AN HONEST FRIEND

We are all travellers in what John Bunyan calls the wilderness of this world—all, too, travellers with a donkey; and the best that we find in our travels is an honest friend. He is a fortunate voyager who finds many. We travel indeed to find them. They are the end and reward of life.

o Robert Louis Stevenson

YE, O MY FRIENDS

THOU, O *my love,*
ye, O my friends,
The *gist of life,*
the *end of ends—*

To *laugh, to love, to live, to die,*
Ye call me by the ear and eye !

ROBERT LOUIS
STEVENSON

COMPANIONSHIP

BUT SURELY

it is no very extravagant opinion that it is better to give than to receive, to serve than to use our companions; and above all, where there is no question of service upon either side, that it is good to enjoy their company like a natural man.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

To Keep Friends with Himself

TO BE HONEST
to be kind — to earn a
little and to spend a lit-
tle less, to make upon the whole a
family happier for his presence, to re-
nounce when that shall be necessary &
not be embittered, to keep a few friends,
but these without capitulation —
above all, on the same grim conditions,
to keep friends with himself — here is
a task for all that a man has of fortitude
& delicacy + Robert Louis Stevenson

A FRIEND'S REBUKE

IN THESE NEAR IN-

timacies, we are ninety-nine times disappointed in our beggarly selves for once that we are disappointed in our friend; that it is we who seem most frequently undeserving of the love that unites us & and that it is by our friends' conduct that we are continually rebuked & yet strengthened for a fresh endeavor. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

IF WE FIND BUT ONE
IN THIS WORLD

of imperfections we gladly welcome even partial intimacies. And if we find but one to whom we can speak out our heart freely, with whom we can walk in love and simplicity without dissimulation, we have no ground of quarrel with the world or God. D

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

IF I MAY



HERE is an idea abroad among people that they should make their neighbours good. One person I have to make good: myself. But my duty to my neighbour is much more nearly expressed by saying that I have to make him happy—if I may.

A PRAYER FOR FRIENDS



PURGE out of every heart the lurking grudge. Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere. Offenders, give us the grace to accept and to forgive offenders. Forgetful ourselves, help us to bear cheerfully the forgetfulness of others. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind. Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies. . . Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavours. If it may not, give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune, and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving one to another.

» *Robert Louis Stevenson*

OF WHAT
SHALL A
MAN BE PROUD
IF HE IS NOT
PROUD OF HIS
FRIENDS ?

Robert Louis Stevenson

The Stature of our Friends



WHEN we have fallen through story after story of our vanity and aspirations, and sit ruefully among the ruins, then it is that we begin to measure the stature of our friends; how they stand between us and our contempt, believing in our best.

▷ ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

SO long as we
love, we serve;
so long as we
are loved by others I
would almost say we
are indispensable: and
no man is useless while
he has a friend.

Robert Louis Stevenson.



The Uncertainty of Friendship



MAN WHO has a few friends or one who has a dozen (if there be any one so wealthy on this earth), cannot forget on how precarious a basis his happiness reposes; and how by a stroke or two of fate—a death, a few light words, a piece of stamped paper, or a woman's bright eyes—he may be left in a month destitute of all. æ

WHAT can be more encouraging than to find the friend that was welcome at one age, still welcome at another? Our affections and beliefs are wiser than we; the best that is in us is better than we can understand; for it is grounded beyond experience, and guides us, blindfold but safe, from one age on to another.

R. L. S.



